I appreciate you asking me to say a few words for L/E/N/G/U/A/J/E/o

After your huge and inspiring experience editing L=A=N=G=U=A=G=E, what do you think a 2017 magazine on radical language practices and lifes could be?

In 2017, I feel particularly connected to a non-national affinity and exchange among poets, which means a feeling of affinity for poetry that is committed to formal invention as a necessary in the face of always changing social and cultural conditions. A motto for this might be the reverse of the cliché: we might now say *think local, act global* or, for that matter, *think global, act global*. As much as I cling to the necessity of a poetics of the local and particular, I am frightened by the persistence of nativism, and not just on the right. From a US perspective, thinking local is sometimes hard to differentiate from thinking hegemonic or thinking authentic, though of course the local might still be a point of radical resistance in the US. But not if it means new nativisms, as for example the

solidarity in resentment of many Trump voters. I fear also a new moralism taking hold, in which poetry is valued not for its aesthetic risk but its political or personal sentiment.

Poetry is not a moral compass but a mortal rumpus.

When Esteban Pujals published ***La Lengua Radical*** 25 years ago, it was enormously encouraging, confirming the continuing relevance of the work we had done in L=A=N=G=U=A=G=E (and related magazines and presses) over the previous decade or two. I realize that work did not have an enormous immediate impact in Spain! But in a sense that paralleled our situation in the U.S. And I loved that Esteban had translated the book by himself. As much as I value collectivity, the work of a single translator/editor gave the book its aura.

At the same time, I was in touch with Manuel Brito of Zasterle Press in the Canary Islands. Manuel published my poetry collection *The Absent Father in Dumbo* in 1990. I visited Tenerife (and the university) with Susan, Emma, and Felix (my family) just a few years after *La Lengua Radical* was published. Manuel is one of the great publishers of American poetry and also has edited a few collections of great value to me, all in English. *A Suite of Poetic Voices* (Santa Brigida, Spain: Kaddle Books, 1994) and **«Small Press Publishing: Absorbing New Forms, Circulating New Ideas»** in *Revista Canaria de Estudios Ingleses* (2011).

/ Poetry is not a moral compass but a mortal rumpus

I also met the Argentine poet Jorge Perednik around this time (1994) an we discovered the affinities between L=A=N=G=U=A=G=E and **XUL**. That, in turn, ultimately led to my co-editing with Eduardo Espina ***S/N: NewWorldPoetics***, which published work of Latin American poets in English and American poets in Spanish.

===/ **Charles Bernstein**